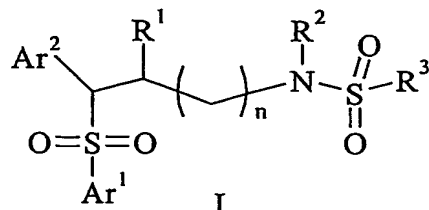


CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula I:



- 5 where n is 2, 3 or 4;

Ar<sup>1</sup> represents phenyl or heteroaryl, either of which bears 0-3 substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, CHF<sub>2</sub>, OH, OCF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy or C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl which optionally bears a substituent selected from halogen, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, OH and C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy;

- 10 Ar<sup>2</sup> represents phenyl or heteroaryl, either of which bears 0-3 substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, CHF<sub>2</sub>, OH, OCF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy or C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl which optionally bears a substituent selected from halogen, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, OH and C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy;

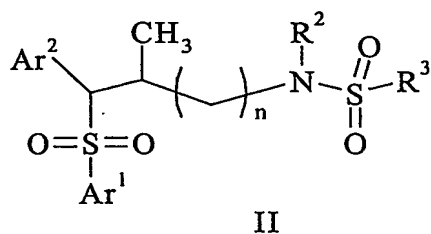
- 15 R<sup>1</sup> represents C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, or together with R<sup>2</sup> completes a pyrrolidine, piperidine or homopiperidine ring;

R<sup>2</sup> represents H or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl which optionally bears a substituent selected from halogen, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, OH and C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy; or together with R<sup>1</sup> completes a pyrrolidine, piperidine or homopiperidine ring; or together with R<sup>3</sup> completes a tetrahydroisothiazole-1,1-dioxide ring; and

- 20 R<sup>3</sup> represents phenyl, naphthyl or heteroaryl, any of which may bear up to 3 substituents selected from halogen, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, CHF<sub>2</sub>, OH, OCF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>acyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>acyloxy, C<sub>2-6</sub>acylamino, amino, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylamino, di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino or C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl which optionally bears a substituent selected from halogen, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, OH and C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy; or R<sup>3</sup> represents CF<sub>3</sub> or a non-aromatic hydrocarbon group of up to 6 carbon atoms optionally bearing one substituent selected from halogen, CN, CF<sub>3</sub>, OH, OCF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>acyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>acyloxy, C<sub>2-6</sub>acylamino, amino, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylamino, di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino or

phenyl, naphthyl or heteroaryl, any of which may bear up to 3 substituents selected from halogen, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, CHF<sub>2</sub>, OH, OCF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>acyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>acyloxy, C<sub>2-6</sub>acylamino, amino, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylamino, di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino or C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl which optionally bears a  
 5 substituent selected from halogen, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, OH and C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy; or R<sup>3</sup> together with R<sup>2</sup> completes a tetrahydroisothiazole-1,1-dioxide ring;  
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

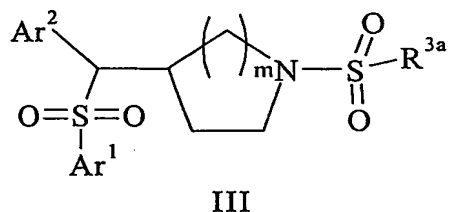
2. A compound according to claim 1 of formula II:



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where n, Ar<sup>1</sup>, Ar<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are as defined in claim 1;  
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A compound according to claim 1 of formula III:



15

wherein m is 1, 2 or 3;

R<sup>3a</sup> represents R<sup>3</sup> which does not form a ring with R<sup>2</sup>;

and Ar<sup>1</sup>, Ar<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are as defined in claim 1;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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4. A compound according to any previous claim wherein Ar<sup>1</sup> is 4-chlorophenyl or 4-trifluoromethylphenyl and Ar<sup>2</sup> is 2,5-difluorophenyl.

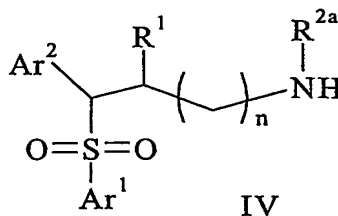
5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any previous claim, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. A compound according to any of claims 1-4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in therapy.

7. The use of a compound according to any of claims 1-4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for treatment or prevention of Alzheimer's disease.

8. A method of treatment of a subject suffering from or prone to a condition associated with the deposition of  $\beta$ -amyloid which comprises administering to that subject an effective amount of a compound according to any of claims 1-4 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

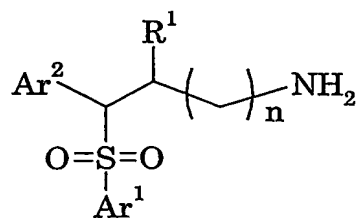
9. A method of preparing a compound according to claim 1 in which  $R^2$  does not form a ring with  $R^3$  comprising reaction of an amine (IV) with  $R^{3a}$ -SO<sub>2</sub>Cl:



where  $R^{2a}$  represents  $R^2$  which does not complete a ring with  $R^3$ ,

$R^{3a}$  represents  $R^3$  which does not complete a ring with  $R^2$ , and  $n$ ,  $Ar^1$ ,  $Ar^2$ ,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are as defined in claim 1.

10. A method of preparing a compound according to claim 1 in which  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  together complete a tetrahydroisothiazole-1,1-dioxide comprising reaction of an amine:



where  $n$ ,  $\text{Ar}^1$ ,  $\text{Ar}^2$  and  $\text{R}^1$  are as defined in claim 1, with  $\text{L}-(\text{CH}_2)_3-\text{SO}_2\text{Cl}$   
5 where L represents a leaving group, followed by intramolecular alkylation of the resulting sulphonamide nitrogen.